

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, Claims 6 and 14 have been canceled and Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-20 are now active in this application, of which Claims 1 and 9 are independent, and claims 2-5, and 7-8 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1., and claims 10-13 and 15-20 depend directly or indirectly, from Claim 9.

DeGraw, U.S. 3,866,258, teaches a modified mirror assembly with a pair of internally mounted single-action pneumatic cylinders that drive a wiper blade attached to a large rectangular frame. The extension stroke moves the operating arms of the cylinders away from the mirror. Upon every extension stroke, the frame, a pair of operating arms and a pair of springs substantially obstruct view around the mirror and potentially distract a driver and interfere with other mirror mounting hardware. Even at rest, these components protrude from and pose a visual obstacle along the entire side of the mirror. Implementation of the *DeGraw* system requires replacement or extensive modification of conventional mirrors.

Bissell, U.S. 4,896,395, teaches a dual action cylinder that drives a wiper blade attached to a large rectangular frame. The extension stroke moves the operating arm of the cylinder away from the mirror. Upon every extension stroke, the frame, an operating arm and several framework components move substantially, obstruct view around the mirror and potentially distract a driver and interfere with other mirror mounting hardware. Even at rest, these components protrude from and pose a visual obstacle along the entire side of the mirror. The cylinder mountings require disassembly of the mirror.

In sharp contrast, Applicant's system is a simple yet elegant design, which emphasizes inconspicuousness and reliability. Applicant's claimed system does not require substantial modification or disassembly of the mirror. It is attached to the exterior surface of a conventional

mirror. More importantly, Applicant's claimed system does not have components that move away from the mirror. The only component of Applicant's claimed invention extending from the mirror is the stationary portion of the pneumatic cylinder, which is a relatively slender unobtrusive structure. Because the stationary portion of the pneumatic cylinder does not reciprocate, it is far less likely to distract a driver, impede visibility around the mirror or interfere with conventional mirror frameworks.

In view of the claim amendments and the differences discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-20, which are now active in this application, clearly and patentably distinguish over the prior art. The prior art, alone or in combination, simply does not disclose, teach or suggest a system with a stationary portion of a pneumatic cylinder, which is a relatively slender unobtrusive structure, extending from the side of a mirror, and mounted to with a single angle bracket so that the operating arm moves across the face of the mirror.

Applicant believes that combining references identified by the examiner would not lead to the claimed invention, in that the present invention emphasizes sleekness and unobtrusiveness. It is respectfully submitted that since none of the references alone or in combination teach these important features of Applicant's claimed invention, any hypothetical construction produced by combining references would not lead to Applicant's invention.

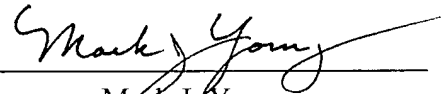
In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the original claims should be considered as no longer tenable with respect to the amended Claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-20. Thus the amended the amended Claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-20 should now be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action. Applicant further believes that the amended Claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-20 are now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. Alternatively, should the Examiner believe, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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